

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-12 HA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /093 W
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O 162200Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000

USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 2830

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 PRETORIA 4017

BONN: PLEASE PASS ASST. SEC. MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BOTHA'S REMARKS ON SABC.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A JULY 16 SABC ENGLISH LANGUAGE
RADIO INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA ON NAMIBIAN ISSUES.
THE RADIO INTERVIEW WAS DESCRIBED AS AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF A SABC
TV INTERVIEW IN AFRIKAANS WHICH WAS SHOWN ONE HOUR EARLIER AT
8:00 P.M. IN BOTH CASES THE INTERVIEWER WAS CLIFF SAUNDERS.

2. QUOTE:

THERE HAS BEEN GREAT CONFUSION THIS LAST WEEK OVER LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT PLAN FOR SOUTH WEST
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AFRICA. FIRST, IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN LUANDA THAT SWAPO HAD
ACCEPTED THE WESTERN PLAN. THEN, THE PRESIDENT OF SWAPO,
SAM NUJOMA, TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE REGARDED THE PLAN MERELY
AS A BLUE PRINT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.
AND CONSEQUENTLY AMERICAN NEGOTIATOR, MR. DONALD MCHENRY, ANNOUNCED
THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, THERE WERE NO CHANGES TO THE PLAN.
THE QUESTION IN EVERYONE'S MIND IS, HAS PROGRESS REALLY BEEN MADE

TOWARD PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA. CLIFF SAUNDERS
PUT THE QUESTION TO THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. PIK BOTHA.
SAUNDERS: IS THIS THE CASE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA AND

SOUTH WEST AFRICA, WAS THERE A BREAKTHROUGH?
BOTHA: NOT NECESSARILY. I'M AFRAID THAT A DARK CLOUD IS APPEARING ON
THE HORIZON, AS FAR AS THE MATTER OF WALVIS BAY IS CONCERNED.
IT'S TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THIS WILL BE RESOLVED, BUT WE'LL
HAVE TO WAIT FOR THAT. AS FAR AS MR. SAM NUJOMA IS CONCERNED, I FIND
IT VERY DIFFICULT TO KKEP TRACK OF EVERYTHING HE IS SAYING. AND OUR
POINT OF VIEW IS THAT WE DO NOT PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THAT HE IS
SAYING. HE IS ONLY ONE PARTY OF A NUMBER OF PARTIES WHO MAY CONTEST
THE ELECTION IN SWA. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, HE WILL HAVE TO DO IT

ON THE SAME CONDITIONS AND UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES APPLICABLE
TO ALL THE OTHER PARTIES.

SAUNDERS: BUT DO YOU FEEL THAT THE STAGE HAS NOW BEEN REACHED WHERE
THIS MATTER CAN NOW BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITH
JUSTIFICATION.

BOTHA: IT CAN BE SUBMITTED AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED. IT COULD
HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL THE DAY AFTER WE ACCEPTED
THE PROPOSAL AND THAT WAS 25 APRIL. THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THERE
SHOULD HAVE BEEN THIS LONG DELAY. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WE
WERE IN FAVOR OF THE WHOLE MATTER GOING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT
A VERY EARLY DATE SO THAT WE CAN REACH INDEPENDENCE BY THE END OF
THIS YEAR.

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SAUNDERS: WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS, MR. BOTHA, IF THIS MATTER IS
SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. CAN RESOLUTIONS, POSSIBLY A SEPARATE

RESOLUTION BE INTRODUCED WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE THE ENTIRE PLAN AND
OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS IT.

BOTHA: IT IS POSSIBLE. I HOPE IT WOULD NOT HAPPEN, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE,

YES. FOR INSTANCE, THEY CAN INTRODUCE THE MAIN PROPOSAL OF THE WEST
WHICH WE ACCEPTED ON 25 APRIL AS A SINGLE RESOLUTION. BUT THEN THERE
IS A DANGER THAT ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS MIGHT BE INTRODUCED DEALING
WITH MATTERS SUCH AS WALVIS BAY IN A WAY WHICH AFFECTS THE BASIS ON
WHICH THE SAG ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL, THE MAIN PROPOSAL. NOW, IF THAT
HAPPENS, WE WOULD HAVE A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION. IT'S TOO EARLY TO
SAY THAT THAT WILL HAPPEN. I HOPE IT WOULD NOT.

SAUNDERS: MR. BOTHA, WHERE WALVIS BAY SEEMS TO BE THE MAIN PROBLEM,
I WANT TO PUT IT TO YOU THAT THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA WHO

WOULD SAY THAT YOU ARE BEING TOO HARD-HEADED, TOO GRANITE-LIKE WITH
REGARD TO THIS PORT. THEY WOULD SAY THAT WHY SHOULD YOU JEOPARDIZE
THE PEACE AND SECURITY IN SWA, THE ENTIRE SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS, JUST
FOR
THE SAKE OF WALVIS BAY.

BOTHA: THE QUESTION CAN BE PUT EXACTLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND. WHY SHOULD

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A TERRITORY THAT IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE SOVEREIGN AREA OF THE
REPUBLIC
OF SOUTH AFRICA BECOME INVOLVED, BE INTRODUCED AS A POSSIBLE
DISPUTE IN A SITUATION SUCH AS THE PRESENT ONE. SO THE QUESTION CAN BE

TURNED AROUND IN EXACTLY THE SAME TERMS, BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHY.
WE FEEL THAT WALVIS BAY IS FOR US A VERY SERIOUS MATTER. NOT ONLY IS
IT PART AND PARCEL OF THE SOVEREIGN AREA OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH
AFRICA, BUT WE HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS THERE, CERTAIN VERY IMPORTANT
INTERESTS. WE HAVE A MILITARY BASE THERE ON OUR OWN SOIL.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1754

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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THE PORT OF WALVIS BAY, RAILWAY INSTALLATIONS IN WALVIS BAY, THESE
ARE
INSTALLATIONS THAT COST MILLIONS AND MILLIONS. AND THEN, WALVIS BAY
COULD CONCEIVABLY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE FUTURE BY A VERY

IMPORTANT AIRPORT FOR OUR CIVIL AIRCRAFT LANDING THERE. IT'S MUCH
CLOSER
TO EUROPE THAN JOHANNESBURG IS FOR INSTANCE. AND IF YOU CANNOT FLY

OVER THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, WALVIS BAY ASSUMES FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW. BUT WE HAVE NEVER SAID THAT WE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE THE USE OF THE PORT OF WALVIS BAY OR OTHER ASPECTS EVEN. THE POINT IS JUST THIS: WALVIS BAY IS NOT PART OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT AND SHOULD NOT BECOME PART OF IT ALL. SAUNDERS: ANOTHER THING WHICH COULD BECOME A BONE OF CONTENTION: THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN, HE MENTIONED A FIGURE OF 5,000 FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NUMBER

OF TROOPS TO BE STATIONED IN SWA. NOW, WAS THIS NUMBER SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE PROPOSAL.

BOTHA: NO, IT IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE PROPOSALS AT ALL. THE IDEA IS THAT THIS IS THE KIND OF SUBJECT THAT MUST BE WORKED OUT IN A SPIRIT OF

COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR AG, MR. JUSTICE STEYN AND THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ACCORDING TO THE NEED OF THE SITUATION AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT. BUT I CANNOT FORESEE, REALLY, THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF MILITARY OBSERVERS COULD BECOME INVOLVED FOR THE

SIMPLE REASON THAT THE WESTERN SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR A PEACEFUL SITUATION TO OBTAIN FIRST OF ALL. AND ONLY IF THERE IS TOTAL PEACE, WILL THERE BE A REDUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP LEVELS. NOW, UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE WHY THERE SHOULD BE VAST NUMBERS OF UN OBSERVERS ONCE TOTAL PEACE IS OBTAINED.

SAUNDERS: THERE ARE CERTAIN QUESTIONS WHICH PEOPLE WOULD WANT ANSWERED AND ONE IS: THERE WOULD BE THOSE WHO FEEL THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN ANY SERIOUS SHOOTING TROUBLE IN SWA BECAUSE IN ANY EVENT THIS IS INTERNATIONAL TERRITORY. THEY WOULD FEEL THAT, IF THERE IS WAR IN SWA OR IF WAR IS THREATENED IN SWA, WE SHOULD WITHDRAW OUR TROOPS AND WE SHOULD MERELY ALLOW THE WHITES IN SWA TO FLEE DOWN SOUTH.

BOTHA: WE'VE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY AND TO

THEIR LEADERS. WE'VE COMMITTED OURSELVES THAT WE WILL SAFE GUARD THEM

AGAINST OUTSIDE AGGRESSION. WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES THAT WE WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE OR THEIR TERRITORY. NOW THE SAG'S HONOR AND ITS COMMITMENT IS AT STAKE HERE. IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WITHDRAWING YOUR TROOPS OR TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM TROUBLE BECAUSE THAT SAME AGGRESSIVE FORCE WHICH MIGHT BE THREATENING THE TERRITORY'S INTEGRITY AND SAFETY WOULD NOT STOP UNCLASSIFIED

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SHORT IN THE TERRITORY. IT IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY TO DECIDE

THEIR OWN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. THAT'S THE WAY WE SEE IT. AND THAT IS WHY OUR POLICE WILL REMAIN IN CHARGE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER UNTIL THERE IS A NEW GOVERNMENT. AND THAT IS WHY OUR TROOPS WILL NOT BE REDUCED IN NUMBERS UNLESS AND UNTIL THERE IS COMPREHENSIVE PEACE, A TOTAL PEACE ESTABLISHED IN THE TERRITORY. SO AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND, IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WITHDRAWING YOUR TROOPS TO TRY AND AVOID TROUBLE. IT IS RATHER A QUESTION OF HONORING YOUR COMMITMENTS AND ENABLING THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY TO BECOME INDEPENDENT UNDER CONDITIONS OF ORDER, OFFERING THEM A CHANCE TO DEVELOP ECONOMICALLY UNDER PEACEFUL CONDITIONS.

SAUNDERS: IN OTHER WORDS, THE SAG CAN GIVE THE PEOPLE OF SWA THE ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL NOT THROW THEM TO THE WOLVES SO TO SPEAK.

BOTHA: THAT IS OUR COMMITMENT. AND I CANNOT SEE THAT THE SAG WOULD RENIG ON THAT COMMITMENT AT ALL.

SAUNDERS: MR. BOTHA, A FINAL QUESTION. HOW DO YOU SEE THE POSITION AS IT STANDS RIGHT NOW AND CAN YOU GIVE AN ANSWER TO THE SIMPLE QUESTION: DOES THE DOOR REMAIN OPEN?.

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BOTHA: THERE IS A VERY POSITIVE SIDE TO WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.
IF I THINK BACK TO WHAT THE SITUATION WAS TWO YEARS AGO WHEN THERE

WAS A DEMAND THAT WE OUGHT TO WITHDRAW ALL OUR TROOPS UNCONDITIONALLY,

THAT WE OUGHT TO WITHDRAW OUR POLICE FORCE UNCONDITIONALLY, THAT THE
TERRITORY OR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY RATHER SHOULD BE
HANDED

OVER THE SO-CALLED COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA OF THE UN AND THAT THAT COUNCIL

WOULD THEN GOVERN THE TERRITORY ON AN INTERIM BASIS UNTIL THERE WOULD

BE ELECTIONS HELD BY THE UN SOLELY UNDER UN SUPERVISION AND
CONDITIONS AND THAT THEY WOULD THEN HAND POWER IN TURN TO WHATEVER
GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN BE ELECTED. IF I THINK FURTHER OF ALL THE OTHER

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DIFFICULTIES AND DEMANDS THAT WERE MADE AND THE ARROGANCE WITH WHICH
THOSE DEMANDS WERE MADE IN UN CIRCLES AND BY SWAPO. AND I NOW COMPARE
THAT SITUATION WITH WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED, NAMELY, IT IS THE SOUTH
AFRICAN AG WHO IS GOVERNING THE TERRITORY. HE WILL DRAFT THE ELECTION

REGULATIONS. OUR POLICE WILL REMAIN IN CHARGE OF THE MAINTENANCE OF
LAW AND ORDER UNTIL THERE IS A NEW GOVERNMENT. OUR TROOPS WILL
REMAIN IN THE TERRITORY AND NO REDUCTION OF TROOPS WOULD TAKE PLACE
UNLESS AND UNTIL THERE IS A REDUCTION IN VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT. IF I
COMPARE THUS, THEN CERTAINLY ANY OBJECTIVE PERSON OR ANALYST MUST
COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT DRAMATIC, POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS WERE
OBTAINED. THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. DUE LARGELY TO THE FIRMNESS
OF THE SAG, DUE TO THE SOUNDNESS OF THE SAG'S POLICY, NAMELY, THAT THE

PEOPLE WOULD DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE UNDER CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM,
WITHOUT INTIMIDATION, WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION FROM ANY OUTSIDE ENTITY.
HOWEVER, I MUST ADMIT THAT THERE IS ALSO A DARK CLOUD, AS I SAID
EARLIER, LOOMING OVER THE ORIZON NOW PARTICULARLY ON THE ISSUE OF
WALVIS BAY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT, IF THIS ISSUE COULD BE
RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY AND THE LEGAL BASIS OF THE SAG'S POINT OF VIEW

ON WALVIS BAY WILL BE RESPECTED, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER ISSUES WHEN WE
COME TO THE STAGE OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSALS BUT BY AND
LARGE ON BALANCE THERE REMAINS THIS VAST AND DRAMATIC, HISTORIC
POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITY OF ENTERING A NEW ERA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
AS A WHOLE, AN ERA OF PEACE, OF GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR
VARIOUS PEOPLES, AN ERA THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO
DEVELOP ECONOMICALLY UNDER CONDITIONS WHERE THE SUPER POWERS OR
OTHER POWERS WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN OUR AREA. IN OTHER WORDS,
THERE IS STILL HOPE, A LOT OF HOPE, AND I BELIEVE THAT THE
VARIOUS NATIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD DEARLY WISH THIS DREAM OF
COOPERATION, OF PEACE TO BE FULFILLED SOON. THE SAG WILL PLAY ITS ROLE

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TO THE FULL TO ENDEAVOR TO MAKE THIS DREAM COME TRUE.UNQUOTE
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